

HADLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT, 1898.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the District, during the twelve months ending December 31st, 1898.

Population 1881, 3237 ; 1891, 3229.

Area 4288 acres. Number of Persons per acre, .75.

BIRTHS. The number of births registered during the year was 84 (37 males, 47 females), equivalent to a birth-rate of 26.01 per thousand of the population, a decrease on the birth-rate of the previous ten years. The births and birth-rates of the previous ten years in this district were :—

	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
Births	104	102	116	96	96	105	103	97	92	88	84
Birth-rate	32.1	31.5	35.8	29.7	29.7	32.5	30.2	30.04	28.49	27.25	26.01

DEATHS. The number of deaths registered from all causes in this district was 63 (27 males, 36 females), giving a death-rate of 19.51 per thousand, and an increase on the death-rate of the previous four years, the proportions in the previous ten years being :—

	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
Deaths	49	47	56	47	66	65	50	61	45	43	63
Death-rate	15.1	14.5	17.3	14.5	20.4	20.1	15.4	18.8	13.9	13.31	19.51

Infantile Mortality during 1898 was very large, the death-rate being 202.3 deaths among infants under one year of age to a thousand births ; the death-rate in the previous six years was :—

	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
	72.9	114.2	77.6	51.5	76	79.5

This high death-rate is due to the number of fatal cases which occurred during an epidemic of Whooping-Cough ; and secondly to a large number of premature births, the infants dying in a few days.

Fourteen deaths have occurred from Whooping-Cough.

The *Zymotic* deaths and death-rate during the past seven years were :—

	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
Erysipelas	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	6	1	2	1	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Whooping-Cough	—	—	1	—	—	—	14
Total Deaths	1	7	6	2	1	0	14
Death-rate	.3	2.1	1.8	.6	.3	0	4.3

No death from Small Pox or Scarlet Fever has occurred during these years.

Deaths from all other causes were 49 in number, giving a death-rate of 15.1 per thousand of the 1891 population. The deaths caused by the principal diseases during the past nine years were :—

	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
Consumption	9	3	12	6	4	6	6	7	7
Bronchitis, &c.	8	6	15	8	8	13	3	6	4
Heart Disease	4	10	11	6	4	6	9	5	4
Cancer	5	0	1	2	2	3	2	2	1
Other causes	30	28	26	36	26	31	24	23	47

The death-rate from Consumption during 1898 was 2.16 per thousand of the population.

THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT. Twenty cases were notified during the year, giving a rate of 6.19 per thousand of the population.

Cases notified :—Diphtheria, 18 ; Erysipelas, 2.

Diphtheria. This disease again broke out after heavy rain in the same locality of the town as it did in 1897, further inspection of this particular part discovered drains broken and out of repair, fitted in some cases at their inlet with “ Bell traps,” which were broken and useless ; the whole of the drainage is to be reconstructed. A few cases I attributed to the insanitary condition of the closets at the British School, these defects have been repaired.

Other cases reported have no connection with the above, or to any visible defects connected with their water, milk, or drainage, and I am only able to explain them as due to some miasmatic condition. No death has been reported as due to this disease.

A serious epidemic of Whooping-Cough occurred during the early months of the year, necessitating the closure of all the schools for some weeks, and resulting in the death of fourteen children.

Measles broke out in November, affecting chiefly the infants, the sufferers were isolated and the other children attending school were kept away, the schools were not closed as it seemed to me that communication between the children in the streets would soon produce a serious epidemic ; instead of closing the schools I advised the School Authorities to apply to the Educational Department for a Special Epidemic Grant as compensation for the unavoidable reduction in the number of scholars attending school. The epidemic was soon checked.

Consumption. The death-rate for this disease is the same as in 1897. I trust the Council will do all in their power to adopt any measures that may be suggested to stamp out this disease.

Small Pox. The new Vaccination Act by its Conscientious Objection Clause much increases the risk of an outbreak of this disease. With persuasion much may be done to influence the minds of the ignorant towards having their children vaccinated ; I trust the members of the Council will do their utmost to point out the advantages of vaccination.

Dwelling Houses. By degrees the accommodation for the working classes is being improved. Old cottages are being repaired by providing more light, better drainage, &c. There is still much to be desired in this respect.

The cementing of all the cesspools has necessitated the cleansing of middens which have previously been left untouched for months.

Many drains in the town have been repaired, and reconstructed during the year.

WATER SUPPLY. This is derived from wells, and a spring in George Street, the water from the latter is collected in a reservoir and then passes through glazed pipes to a pipe, which gives a constant supply. The public supply in the Market Place gives an excellent sample of water, as judged from the results when submitted to Wanklyn’s Ammonia Process. Angel Street has a supply of good water within reasonable distance of the cottages.

In Calais Street a well supplied from a ditch into which surface water drained, has been closed, in place of it another well has been cleaned out and repaired, a good sample of drinking water is the result.

The Council are now considering a proposal for the weekly collection of household refuse, ashes, potatoe peelings, &c.

The cesspools which were not cemented at the end of 1897 were done in the early months of 1898.

REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES. 46 notices were served for the repair of cesspools. Manure and house refuse has been moved by his direction in 16 instances. 42 cesspools have been emptied by his direction. 465 inspections have been made to cottage yards, and 200 in connection with the completion of the cementing of cesspools.

Legal proceedings, 3 ; these were not proved as the work had been completed before the cases were heard.

Ten complaints of defective drains have been attended to and the drains repaired.

These do not represent all the nuisances abated during the year as verbal request has been found in many instances to be sufficient.

With the exception of Whooping-Cough the town has been free from any virulent disease during the year 1898.

A. BRITTEN FRANEY, *Medical Officer of Health.*

HADLEIGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF

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the District, during the twelve months ending

DECEMBER 31st, 1898.
